

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1848.

THE CAMPAIGN, No. VI.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT, AGAINST WHICH THE VETO IS CHIEFLY INVOKED.

It is not merely out of partiality to the power which the Veto gives to a President of their choice to defeat the will of the People, that the Baltimore Convention applauds its use, on all occasions, by the Executive. It is mainly because of its having been the means of defeating particular measures, and especially appropriations of public money for purposes of Internal Improvement, and other measures designed to confer practical benefits on the People, that the Veto power has met with the unanimous approbation of the Democracy in Convention assembled. It has long been a favorite doctrine with the leaders of that party that the powers of the Government under the Constitution are to be so strictly construed that no good shall come of them. The Government is, in their view of it, a machine for imposing restraints and burdens on the People; for laying taxes, raising armies, navies, hosts of officeholders; for making foreign war, annexing foreign territories, surveying distant lands and seas: it is a machine, in short, by which any thing can be done outside of the United States, in which the People have individually no sort of interest; but is so incapable of being made available for any purpose directly beneficial to them, that within the last fortnight the two Houses of Congress have been obliged to surrender a paltry appropriation for removing obstructions from a river, under a threat, by the President, that, rather than such an appropriation should pass, he would, by imposing his Veto upon the annual General Appropriation bill, stop the wheels of the Government.

In perfect consistency with this doctrine, we find the Baltimore Convention approving of the Veto power, because "it has saved the American people from the corrupt and tyrannical domination of the Bank of the United States, and from a corrupting system of general Internal Improvements."

We shall not stop here to show that the Bank of the United States, whilst it was yet a National Bank, was neither tyrannical nor corrupt; but, on the contrary, was a convenience to the Government and a useful agent to the People. We have the less need to do this, there being no idea, in any quarter, of reviving that defunct question. Whenever, if ever, the question of a National Bank shall be again agitated, the highest possible Democratic authority (that of Gen. Jackson) may be produced to prove that "a Bank of the United States is in many respects convenient for the Government and useful to the People;" and that such a Bank might be so organized as not to infringe in any way the Constitution.

It is here worthy of note that the Veto Resolution of the present "Platform" of the Democracy is a literal copy of the similar resolution in the Platform of the same party for 1844, except that in the latter the denunciation of Internal Improvements finds no place. That is one of the new issues of the present campaign: an interpolation in the old party creed, put there for the especial purpose of ratifying Mr. Polk's Veto, and obliging Gen. Cass to include hostility to all Internal Improvements among the principles which he has pledged himself to "adhere to firmly as he approves cordially."

Whilst our Democratic President and his party followers have been able to find in the Constitution authority for his undertaking a war without the consent of Congress, without their knowledge, and without even their suspicion of such a thing being within his contemplation; whilst he could find in it the power to establish civil government in California, and send out a Governor not only before it was conquered from Mexico, but six or eight months before war was declared to exist between the United States and that Republic; whilst he could find in it power to march our armies into Mexico for the purpose of overthrowing tyranny and punishing usurpers in Mexico; whilst he could find in it power, in particular, to vindicate by arms the freedom of the press in Mexico; whilst he could find in it power to levy taxes in Mexico, appoint persons to collect them, and disburse the proceeds at his pleasure; whilst, more directly in point in the present connexion, he could find authority for dispatching a national vessel to survey and fathom the Dead Sea; whilst he has exercised with entire license almost all conceivable powers—certainly the most important powers of sovereignty—not confined to him by the Constitution, there is one power, heretofore exercised by the Government under every Administration, which he has thought fit to place under the ban, and, under pretence of its being unconstitutional, on all occasions to denounce and proscribe. We refer of course to the power of

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

We cannot let the endorsement by the Baltimore Convention of the President's hostility to this interest, and the adoption of that sentiment by Gen. Cass, pass, without such an exposition of the merits of the matter as may be useful at least to the younger of our readers, and on that account not unacceptable to their elders.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT, in its popular sense, comprehends the appropriation of money by the General Government for the purpose of deepening harbors and constructing sea-walls and breakwaters on the sea-coast, and on the shores of our great Lakes; for removing from our great rivers obstructions to their navigation; for constructing such roads and canals as are purely national in their character, and not confined to the limits and jurisdiction of any single State.

This is, in general terms, the class of powers which the President, the Baltimore Convention, and General Cass deny to Congress; and which, being wholly beyond the competency of the several State Governments, can, therefore, according to these Democratic authorities, exist nowhere. Perpetuate the sway of the veto, and our Lakes, Rivers,

* See Gen. JACKSON'S Message to the Senate, July 10, 1822, in which he informed that body that if the Senate had called upon him (the President) to furnish the project of such an institution, "the duty would have been cheerfully performed."

Shores, and the passes of our Mountains, will remain in the state in which the savages left them when driven by the rushing tide of civilization into still wilder regions than those they once inhabited.

The utility and the value of Internal Improvements surely need no demonstration. They are plain, palpable, practical. The whole subject is, indeed, one of those which he who follows the plough or wields the hammer or the axe is quite as capable of understanding as those who handle the affairs of State. Ask, either of the farmer, or the tradesman, or the mechanic, whether he prefers a good road to a bad one, and he will laugh in your face at the simplicity of the question. What he feels and realizes as practically beneficial to himself he cannot but believe to be beneficial to others also, and of course a general good. The statesman and the politician, taking larger views of the matter, cannot but perceive also that no possible exercise of power by the Government can so effectually contribute to unite the interests and affections of the different parts of the country, to perpetuate the Union, and to advance the general prosperity of the nation, as that which connects and brings nearer to one another its various parts. In the more extended import of the term, including the facilitation of the already vast and daily lengthening chain of internal commerce of these States—and especially that of our yet hardly explored inland seas, as well as that which is freighted to our shores from foreign lands—the exercise by Congress of the power which we are considering must be allowed by every one to be of inappreciable consequence, if not of indispensable necessity.

If this power be one so benign in its influence, strengthening the Government both morally and physically—while it showers blessings on all parts of our country, whether within or without the immediate range of its operations—the reasons must be unanswerable upon which its exercise is refused or interdicted.

The main objection, set up by the champions of the Veto, to the exercise of this power by the General Government, is, that it is not granted to Congress by the Constitution.

The Constitution, it is true, does not, in so many words, say that Congress shall have power to make or improve great highways by land or water, to deepen harbors, to remove snags and shoals from rivers, or to construct breakwaters. Neither does it say that Congress shall have power to place buoys and piers or to erect light-houses. But it does say that Congress shall have power "to establish post offices and post roads," "to regulate commerce among the several States," and "to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over all places purchased for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings."

The power to make great National Roads, though there is less occasion for the Government to exercise it, because it is generally susceptible of execution by associations of individuals, necessarily results from the first of the foregoing powers. Against this construction it has been argued that the word "establish," as here used, means only to designate existing roads. This construction is demonstrably wrong, or our Government has been going wrong from the beginning. If it be right as to one member of the sentence, it must hold good as to the whole of it. Have Congress no power, under the clause in regard to post offices, but to designate them? Do they not, on the contrary, create them, year after year, by hundreds at a time? If the word "establish" means to create, in reference to post offices, it certainly means the same as to post roads. Suppose a great highway on which the mail travels to become impassable, have not Congress the power to make it passable, so as to let the post pass? This will not be denied. What difference in principle is there, then, we ask, between repairing a road and making one? None whatever: the operation is in both cases the same, and must ever be conducted with the same implements and the same materials. If the word "establish" meant only to designate, how could the powers be inferred from it which have been exercised by Congress without dispute from the beginning of the Government? Congress has passed laws for punishing any one who should interrupt the passage of the mail. Under the same power laws have been passed to punish robberies of the mail of every degree, and several persons have been put to death under them. For lesser offences many persons have been imprisoned at hard labor for ten years at a time. Do all these powers, so deeply affecting liberty and life, fairly result from the general terms employed in this clause of the Constitution, and yet cannot the Government alter the course of a road or shorten or level it? We put it to the common sense of every one who reads this, whether the power is not clearly given to make roads for the transportation of the mail whenever the existing roads are not properly adapted to the want? Government will of course not make such roads where it finds them ready made. But, if Congress has not power to make or improve a road to allow of the proper transportation of the mail, it has not the power to protect its transportation or to punish those who impede its passage. To deny these powers would be absurd; and they are never denied.

There are other clauses of the Constitution from which the power to make roads has been deduced in argument, and from which we have no doubt it might be fairly inferred, if it were not otherwise granted, as already shown. The power to raise and support armies includes the power to march them; and roads may be made for that purpose, and for the purpose of transporting munitions of war. Roads have, in fact, been made for this purpose by the mere order of the Executive, without previous authority by Congress, and they have not been deemed unconstitutional. We have even witnessed the inconsistency, in some of our most distinguished statesmen, of their vindicating the exercise of this power by the Executive, and denying it to Congress. Our doctrine is, on the contrary, that whatever the Executive may do, without an express authority therefor in the Constitution, much more may Congress do it.

The power to improve Harbors and Lake and River Navigation by the General Government is plainly incidental to the power "to regulate commerce among the several States." Under the clause "to regulate commerce with foreign nations," the power has been always exercised of removing bars and obstructions to harbors, of making breakwaters, of erecting piers, &c. Under the corresponding clause "to regulate commerce among the several States," and with equal authority, Congress has

exercised (until forbidden by the Presidential veto) the power of improving the navigation of such interior water-courses as can properly be considered national highways. The removal of the obstructions to the navigation of the great waters of the West is a work in which the whole Union is interested; and, as for the West itself, (it is hardly saying too much,) it asks almost nothing else of Congress.

The opponents of the power which we now claim for Congress deny it, without meeting the argument. Under the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, they will allow Congress to do any thing and every thing; under the power to regulate commerce among the several States, they will allow Congress to do nothing. Under the one, bars may be removed, islands created, dams built, &c.; under the other, you shall not put a spade into the ground, or take a snag out of a river. Under the one, you may remove obstructions from an Atlantic harbor or river, but take care how you meddle with the snags in the Mississippi or the rafts on Red River! If the power to regulate commerce among the several States does not include the power to improve water-courses, and to make artificial links to connect the principal of them, what is there that it does authorize? Does it mean nothing? Congress are precluded the power of taxing commerce among the several States; and the word "regulate" must, in this case, mean facilitate, or it means absolutely nothing. We cannot admit that any part of the donative clauses of the constitution are without meaning. We should as soon think that the power "to declare war" means the power to do nothing, as that the power "to regulate commerce among the several States" means nothing at all.

We have said that this doctrine of the General Government having none but exterior objects, was not the doctrine of the framers of the constitution, nor of its first expositors. Look at their acts. Some of the leading members of the National Convention, who had been also members of their own State Conventions, were members of the first Congress. Look at their speeches. Internal improvement was not then debated about. The Fathers of the land were too busily and anxiously engaged in organizing the different departments of public affairs. The Government of the United States did not spring into existence full formed. It rather gradually emerged, as earth did from chaos, when the waters of the deluge subsided, until at last the whole surface of the land became dry, and beautiful, and productive. The power of internal improvement was not visible until after a time; when, all dangers passed and all difficulties overcome, there came, with increasing population, the duty of cultivation and improvement. But, though roads and canals were not spoken of, and railroads and steam navigation were not dreamed of, in the first or the second Congress under the Constitution, analogous topics were alluded to in such a manner as to show what opinions were entertained of the powers and objects of the General Government.

It was as early as on the twentieth day of the first session of the first Congress, that Mr. MADISON, speaking in the House of Representatives upon a memorial by Mr. John Churchman, asking of Congress to afford him aid in a proposed voyage to Baffin's Bay, for the purpose of ascertaining the longitude, expressed himself as follows: "If there is any considerable probability that the projected voyage would be successful, or throw any valuable light on the discovery of longitude, it certainly comports with the honor and dignity of the Government to give it their countenance and support." This shows what Mr. Madison thought was the duty of the Government, even at that early day. He thought it was the duty of the Government to encourage science. How awfully afflictive must such an idea be to that class of politicians of the present day which is opposed to internal improvement, may be imagined from the rout which they raised when the lamented ADAMS proposed to Congress the erection of an Astronomical Observatory!

In his opening speech upon the first revenue bill, a few days earlier in the session, Mr. MADISON (others speaking to the same effect) recognised the right of Congress (denying the expediency) to make sumptuary prohibitions. The protection of public morals and of public health was frequently urged, in debate upon the same bill, (the Revenue Bill,) as an argument for higher duties upon the importation of distilled spirits, &c. So that protection of public morals and public health was an object not deemed unworthy of the attention of Congress in those primitive days. We love to ascend to these sources—to the wisdom and patriotism of the statesmen of those days—and draw instruction from them, as from "a well pure and undefiled;" and the nearer the politicians of the present day approach to them the better we like them. It is for that reason we have always approved of the political course of Mr. CLAY. The themes and tone of his eloquence have ever been of this lofty and inspiring nature. It is for that reason we joyfully hail the coming of Gen. TAYLOR to the Presidency in preference to his competitor, Gen. Cass; for we know that he is right upon this and every other cardinal Whig principle.

If it be an absurdity to suppose, as President Polk and the Baltimore Convention party seem to do, that this Government, dwelling on the borders of the ocean, is, like the amphibious tribe, incapable of exerting to any distance inland what powers it possesses—that other idea, that Congress has no power to do any thing that it had not been in the habit of doing before the Constitution came into being, is equally erroneous. On the contrary, what was not constitutional fifty years ago may be constitutional now, because it has in time become a natural and proper incident to some granted power. On this point we are happy to be able to produce unimpeachable authority, from that text-book "the Federalist," in the following passage:

"Constitutions of civil government are not to be framed upon a calculation of existing exigencies, but upon a combination of those with the probable exigencies of ages, according to the natural and tried course of human affairs. Nothing, therefore, can be more fallacious than to infer the extent of any power proper to be lodged in the National Government from an estimate of its immediate necessities. There ought to be a capacity to provide for future contingencies, as they may happen; and, as these are illimitable in their nature, so it is impossible safely to limit that capacity."

Upon this fundamental rule in the construction of grants of power by written constitutions, it is

not necessary on this occasion to enlarge; certainly not in reference to the power of Internal Improvement, which, as we have shown, has always been constitutional. But it must be obvious to the intelligent reader, at the first glance at the proposition, that constitutions, however definite, must always be construed with due attention to existing circumstances. All intended powers cannot be expressly granted or enumerated, because they cannot be foreseen to be necessary and proper to carry into execution the powers granted. To this effect Mr. MADISON spoke in debate upon certain amendments proposed to the Constitution, when Mr. TUCKER moved to amend the amendment (art. 10) of the Constitution, reserving the "powers not delegated," &c. by inserting "expressly" before the word "delegated," and Mr. M. objected to the amendment, "because it was impossible to confine a Government to the exercise of express powers; there must necessarily be admitted powers by implication, unless the Constitution descended to recount every minutia." How numerous are not the powers exercised ordinarily by Congress which it would be much more difficult to detect in the Constitution than that which we are now upholding! Need we particularize them? Need we refer to the early and late Exploring Expeditions; to the Observatory, denounced when proposed by Mr. Adams, and erected by the Democratic party; to the Military Academy; to the Vaccine Agency; to that most valuable application of science, the Coast Survey; to all the lesser surveys, from the general Geological to that of the Dead Sea; to those monuments of republican gratitude, the Revolutionary Pension Law, or the Donation to Lafayette? We will not weary the reader by reciting them all. It is enough to say, in conclusion, that if it be not constitutional to apply the funds of the Government to purposes of Internal Improvement, it was not constitutional to build the Capitol; to adorn its Rotundo with priceless memorials of the National History; nay, nor even to buy the seats in which the members repose in its magnificent halls.

The cost of Internal Improvement, when little more than half a million a year was proposed for it, has been assigned by the present Executive as a reason for vetoing it, in a Message written perhaps with the very pen with which he had signed away fifty millions of money for the further prosecution of an aggressive war of his own beginning. This, certainly, addressed to the People through their Representatives, was adding insult to injury. "War," as is eloquently said in a late able report on this subject of Internal Improvement to the House of Representatives by Mr. HUNT of New York—"War, whatever brilliancy of victory or renown may mark its progress, opens no springs of wealth, and yields no increase to the sum of public prosperity." Though appropriations of money for objects of Internal Improvement should add one or two millions of dollars a year to the public debt, (whilst a war adds fifty times as much,) it must be remembered, as is well put in that report, that the facilities afforded to commerce by opening harbors, clearing rivers, &c., add largely to the amount of trade, producing a corresponding increase of revenue; so that the expenditures made on such objects actually return several times the amount appropriated in increased contributions to the Treasury.

The power of Congress over Internal Improvement being undeniable, the duty of Congress to exercise that power, in moderation, cannot be denied. We say, in moderation. It would be difficult to frame an argument satisfactory to us, however, which would show more money than ever has been ought not to be systematically applied to this object. For, if the maintenance of an Army and Navy in time of peace at an expense of ten or fifteen millions of dollars a year be justified in reference to possible exterior contingencies, we cannot, for our part, understand why the great interior interests of our country are not entitled to the annual appropriation for objects of Internal Improvement of an amount at least equal to that which is returned to the Treasury by the sales of the Public Lands.

The vast extent and amount of the territory, population, and production of the region of our country which is directly interested in works of internal improvement, is a powerful additional argument in favor of appropriations for those objects. Our space will not allow us to go into details on this subject. Let it suffice to say, that no Administration can be justified in treating with indifference and contemptuous slight the wants of half a continent, (measuring it by its population,) the net value of whose annual commerce is more than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, and will in ten years' time double that amount; the population of which depending upon the Lakes and Western rivers for a market numbers by this time twelve millions; the number of hands employed as mariners in whose navigation is over thirty thousand; and whose land transportation and intercourse are proportionably large.

And for all this wide region, instinct with industry and enterprise, and teeming with production, what has our present Administration done? We find this question answered to our hand by an esteemed contemporary:

"The only work of Internal Improvement advocated or carried out under the present Administration," says the *New York Express*, "has been the exploration of the Dead Sea, some talk about a canal across the isthmus of Tehuantepec. Instead of fostering commerce by judicious national improvements, the aim of the Administration seems to be to destroy our internal as well as external commerce. Instead of making new harbors, our old ones are allowed to be filled up and made useless. Our rivers are allowed to fill with snags and bars, which wreck many a fine vessel, and ruin many a fair venture. Our coast is badly lighted, and the approach of autumn is ever the season of sorrow to the families of our seamen; for well they know that the hand of Government has not furnished the necessary shelter and beacons which should welcome the returning seaman. Every autumn brings to us from the Lakes accounts of ships lost, and crews swept from life, for want of the aid of national legislation in Internal Improvements. It is to be hoped that a new era is at hand, and that we shall soon have a Government ready to develop the resources of the country, and give our commerce the aid it needs. We want a Government which shall so administer our affairs that the republic will not contrast unfavorably, in its means of internal communication, with one of the colonies of England, [Canada,] which our present rulers are so fond of stigmatizing as behind the age in enterprise and the true science of Government."

This is what this Administration has done. What it proposes to do we know from successive official communications by the President to Congress. It

will end, as it began, and has gone on, doing nothing for the People.

What will be the course of the next Administration, if the Democratic candidate for the Presidency shall succeed? Fortunately, we are not left to conjecture on this head. We have it in black and white, from the Baltimore Convention, and from its candidate himself. It has been resolved, in the first place, by the Baltimore Convention, that the Constitution does not confer upon the General Government, the power to carry on Internal Improvements; and, secondly, that the Veto is "the sovereignest thing on earth" to thwart any action which Congress may attempt upon this subject. And Gen. CASS, besides giving in his adherence to the "Platform," is known to have declared, with superfluous obsequence, that the course of the present Administration would, if he was elected, give direction to that which is to succeed it. The degree of his devotion to the cause of Lake and River Improvement was moreover signalled, more than a year ago, by the following explicit letter on the subject, addressed to the Chicago Convention:

LETTER FROM GEN. CASS.

DETROIT, MAY 29, 1847.

DEAR SIR: I am obliged to you for your kind attention in transmitting me an invitation to attend the Convention on Internal Improvement which will meet in Chicago in July. Circumstances, however, will put it out of my power to be present at that time.

I am, dear sir, respectfully yours,

W. L. WHITING, Esq.

LEW. CASS.

What are the precise opinions of the Whig Candidate for the Presidency on the expediency of Internal Improvement by the General Government, we do not certainly know, though we have every reason to presume him to favor it in every sense. But we do know that he is opposed to the arbitrary exercise of the Veto, by which the voice of the People has been stifled, and their will defied, on this question especially. We know that he will come into power upon the PLATFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION. If the People call him to the Presidency, he will serve them faithfully, and, in his own words, "in accordance with the principles of the Constitution as it was construed and acted upon by our first Presidents, two of whom at least (WASHINGTON and MADISON) acted so conspicuously a part in completing and framing that instrument, as well as in putting it in operation." Gen. T. has never himself (being always in garrison, in camp, or in the field) exercised the privilege of voting; but, had he been called upon at the last Presidential election to do so, would certainly have voted for Mr. CLAY, who, if any living man can be so considered, is the incarnation of Conservative Whig principles. That Gen. T. is himself "a Whig, though not an ultra one," he has no desire to conceal from any portion of the People of the United States.

Finally, we have upon the subject of the Veto power and Internal Improvement, and other objects of Legislation, in the Allison Letter, the views of Gen. TAYLOR—every thing that we could wish them—expressed in terms which can neither be mistaken nor misunderstood, as follows:

"The power given by the Constitution to the Executive to interpose his Veto, is a high conservative power; but in my opinion should never be exercised except in cases of clear violation of the Constitution, or manifest haste and want of consideration by Congress. Indeed, I have thought that for many years past the known opinions and wishes of the Executive have exercised undue and injurious influence upon the Legislative Department of the Government; and for this cause I have thought our system was in danger of undergoing a great change from its true theory. The personal opinions of the individual who may happen to occupy the Executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy; nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the various departments of Government, and acquiesced in by the people. Upon the subject of the tariff, the currency, the improvement of our great highways, rivers, lakes, and harbors, the will of the people, as expressed through their representatives in Congress, ought to be respected and carried out by the Executive."

MAJOR GENERAL WORTH.—The ceremony of the presentation of a sword by the citizens and natives of Columbia county, New York, to Maj. Gen. WILLIAM J. WORTH, took place at the court-house, in Hudson, on Wednesday. A dinner was provided for the occasion.

Dr. DUNCAN has been defeated as a candidate for Congress before the Democratic nominating Convention of Hamilton county, Ohio.

GERRIT SMITH has written a letter stating that he cannot withdraw as a candidate for the Presidency. He considers himself the candidate of the Abolitionists, while Messrs. Van Buren and Adams represent the Anti-Slavery party. Rather a nice distinction, says the Tribune.

THE VETO POWER.—The total number of times which that kingly prerogative, the Veto, has been exercised, since the formation of this Government, is TWENTY-FIVE! The total number of times which the same power has been exercised by the crown of England for the last two hundred years is, not once! We call ours a Republic, however, and the name seems to answer for the substance.

[Richmond Republican.]

A Correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce*, writing from the South, says:

"OLD ZACH is sure to be President, if he lives. There is no mistake about it. It seems to me a man don't want to be in his company but ten minutes to make up his mind to vote for him. I don't know whether he possesses every qualification requisite for that office, but he certainly does one, which is not of the least importance, (the least important?)—that is, the habit of early rising. I boarded at the same hotel with him in New Orleans two or three weeks, and can testify to that. They have an early breakfast there, and we were generally first at the table. I am not acquainted with the habits of former Presidents in this respect, but ZACHARY can write all his messages and letters, and do up a wonderful lot of letters before the average of human kind have taken the last turn over, preparatory to a final opening of their eyes for the day. Besides this, he is honest, independent, good-natured, and patriotic, and he knows something."

The general result of the recent election in ILLINOIS is regarded as justifying a very strong confidence that the electoral vote of the State will be given for Gen. TAYLOR. The St. Louis "Era" says that it is safe for him "beyond any reasonable contingency."

THE PROPOSED ROBBERY OF MEXICO.

The Editor of the Baltimore "Clipper" has answered, in an honest straightforward manner, the question which we put to him the day before yesterday, as to what he would say of the scheme that is on foot to conquer the Northern Provinces of Mexico, by an unlawful and piratical armed force from the United States, and with the very weapons and appliances which were employed in the war which the United States has just ended with Mexico. Hear him!

"We say that the strong man who would forcibly enter the premises of his weaker neighbor and seize his property, would act in as strict conformity to the injunctions of religion and morality as the armed band who may pass the Rio Grande for the purpose of robbing Mexico of her provinces. Should our Government permit this expedition against Mexican provinces to take place, the world will hold in little respect our regard for treaties or our professed love of justice. But, unfortunately for the country, a lax morality has been introduced into public affairs, and old-fashioned honor and honesty have ceased to have their wonted influence.

"The seizure of Mexican territory is to be made under the pretext that the Mexicans do not understand how to make the earth yield its fruits, and that it will be to their benefit to be instructed in labor, and to have our institutions extended over them; but, in reality, adventurers have seen a fertile tract of country which they are resolved to appropriate to their own use, by expelling or destroying the owners; and our rulers lock on to see the robbery perpetrated. How can it be expected that the blessings of Providence will continue with a nation which thus permits the violation of all religious and moral obligation?"

The *New York Journal of Commerce* speaks of the aforesaid project as follows:

"THE BUFFALO HUNT, which is foreshadowed in an article published in our columns to-day from the National Intelligencer, is, under the circumstances, one of the most rascally enterprises that ever was devised by man. After purchasing peace by the cession of more than half her original territory, including Texas, Mexico might fairly expect to be left unmolested by the plunderers, at least for a few years. There is honor, it is said, even among thieves; but what honor there is in this returning for new booty before the old (which was the price of forbearance) is fully taken possession of, we cannot imagine. We know it will be said, and doubtless correctly, that the American Government has nothing to do with this Buffalo Hunt; that it is got up by a gang of adventurers without the knowledge of the Government; and, therefore, that the Government is in nowise responsible for it. We are not so sure that this inference is just. The Government has pledged its solemn faith to Mexico, and cannot redeem it by mere apathy, by not knowing what every body else knows is going forward, with a view to a further dismemberment of her territory. We hold that the American Government is bound in honor and duty to exercise the utmost vigilance to prevent any movement of the kind on the part of its citizens, or other persons within our borders; and, moreover, that every American is bound in honor and duty to town upon the attempt, and to discourage it by every means in his power."

A word in the ear of the *Journal of Commerce*. THE PRESIDENT (who is intended, we presume, by the word "Government") has knowledge, and has had it for weeks if not months, of the design of this "Buffalo Hunt." When consulted on the subject, he declared, in substance, though the Government could not aid the scheme, it would do nothing to oppose it.

LEXINGTON (VA.) CONVENTION.—The Central Committee have thought it best to postpone the Whig Convention from the 19th to the 27th instant.

HON. WM. C. RIVES.—We are very happy to be able to state that this distinguished gentleman has consented to act as Whig Elector in the Albemarle District. Originally appointed, he declined on account of the state of his health; but that being better he cheerfully undertakes the task, and will devote his fine abilities to the good cause.

[Richmond Whig.]

GEN. TAYLOR IN OHIO.

In Ohio the signs are cheering. There was to be a mass meeting at Cincinnati last Tuesday evening; and the Whigs of Butler county made a great turnout at Hamilton on Saturday last. The Cincinnati Gazette says the meeting is described by persons who were present from that city as one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever known in that part of the Miami Valley. Old and young came up from the farm and the workshop, the manufactory and the store, "to hear about Gen. TAYLOR," and show by their actions that they meant to give a hearty support to the brave and honest old hero. Spirited addresses were made to the assembly by Gen. ANTHONY, of Springfield, Capt. CUTTER, of Covington, and R. M. CORWINE, Esq., of Cincinnati.

TRIALS OF IMMIGRANTS.—It must, under the most favorable circumstances, be a severe trial to leave the land of one's birth, the cherished home of earliest associations, to sojourn for the remainder of life's pilgrimage in a strange land. But to do this under the pressure of cold necessity, with the frigid hand of poverty pressing upon the heart, friendless and alone, must tax nature's energies and the heart's affections to the utmost. And yet how many thus circumstanced are daily met in the streets of this city! We copy the following mournful picture from the morning papers, which, from its connexion with statistics of the immigrant hospital, we suppose is given on official authority:

[N. Y. Com. Adv.]

"A Welch minister, named Hughes, called at the office of the Commissioners of Immigration yesterday and inquired for a little son. Mr. H. arrived here a few weeks since with his wife and four children. He left for Pittsburgh, the child mentioned being in the hospital. On returning, he finds that his wife and four children are all dead. His grief may readily be imagined. Not long since, a woman arrived here in one of the long-passed vessels, with seven children, the whole of whom were sick and were sent to the hospital at Ward's Island, she assisting to take care of them. Her husband died during the passage. One after another, in the course of a short time, she saw her little ones pass away, till they were all gone, when she herself fell a prey to grief. Thus all perished."

KENTUCKY TOBACCO.—The Bowling Green Intelligencer of the 9th instant says:

"Owing to the long-continued wet weather the growing crop of tobacco in this section of the State has suffered materially, and should the rains continue a week or two longer, the crop would be almost lost. We have conversed with several farmers within the last few days, who represent that the recent exceedingly heavy rains have greatly damaged their crops, both in reducing the quantity they will make and in deteriorating the quality, so that not only a short crop is now inevitable, but the quality will be very inferior under the most favorable circumstances that may prevail for the balance of the season."

CHINAID TRIED.—LAST DAY OF THE TERM.—Brian Freill, tried and found guilty, on Tuesday last, of manslaughter, was yesterday sentenced to be imprisoned two years at labor in the penitentiary, to take effect from the first of September next.

Daniel Drayton, convicted of stealing negroes in two cases, was sentenced to hard labor in the penitentiary for the space of twenty years, being ten years for each offence.

Edward Sayres, tried and found guilty, in seventy-four cases, of transporting slaves on board the *Peori*, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$150 in each case, one-half to go to the owners of said slaves and the other to the United States.

William Young, indicted and tried for an assault with intent to kill John Mockbee, was found guilty of a common assault, and sentenced by the Court to be imprisoned four months in the county jail.

After Judge CRAWFORD had sentenced the prisoners the Court was adjourned until the ensuing term.